

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 12697 101016Z
ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5960

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FOR NEA/INS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP, IN
SUBJECT: VISIT OF LOK SABHA SPEAKER TO THE US

1. THE INDIAN EMBASSY WILL ALREADY HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH YOU REGARDING THE PRIVATE VISIT TO WASHINGTON IN EARLY OCTOBER OF LOK SABHA SPEAKER K.S. HEDGE FOLLOWING HIS ATTENDANCE AT THE OTTAWA COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY SESSION. BEFORE HE LEFT FOR CANADA, HEGDE ALSO SPOKE TO THE AMBASSADOR ABOUT HIS PLANS AND OF HIS INTEREST IN MEETING WITH THE VICE PRESIDENT, THE SPEAKER, AND SENIOR JUDICIAL AND LEGAL FIGURES. HE SAID THAT HIS OFFICE WAS IN TOUCH WITH THE INDIAN EMBASSY AND EXPECTED THAT THE EMBASSY WOULD BE MAKING THE REQUESTED ARRANGEMENTS. THE AMBASSADOR TOLD HEGDE THAT HE WAS SURE THAT THE DEPARTMENT WOULD COOPERATE FULLY WITH THE EMBASSY IN HELPING TO MAKE HIS WASHINGTON VISIT SUCCESSFUL.

2. AS HEGDE'S SCHEDULE IS WORKED UP, WE WOULD PARTICULARLY HOPE THAT IT WILL INCLUDE A CALL ON THE CHIEF JUSTICE. HEGDE ENTERED POLITICS FROM THE JUDICIARY AND WAS HIMSELF A MEMBER OF THE SUPREME COURT BEFORE RESIGNING WHEN MRS. GANDHI PASSED OVER HIM AND OTHER SENIOR JUSTICES IN CHOOSING A MORE PLIABLE FUTURE AS CHIEF JUSTICE. HE CONSIDERED AN AUTHORITY ON CONSTITUTIONAL
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LAW, AND THE EXPERIENCES OF THE EMERGENCY HERE HAVE DEEPENED HIS INTEREST IN CONSTITUTIONAL SAFEGUARDS. WE THINK A MEETING WITH THE CHIEF JUSTICE WOULD THUS BE HIGHLY APPROPRIATE, AND WE KNOW HEGDE WOULD VERY MUCH WELCOME THIS.

3. WE WOULD ALSO RECOMMEND THAT HEGDE MEET WITH A SENIOR DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL FOR AN INFORMAL DISCUSSION OF INDO-US RELATIONS.

IF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY, A RECENT VISITOR TO INDIA, COULD WORK HIM INTO HIS SCHEDULE WE THINK THAT WOULD BE A VERY WELL-RECEIVED GESTURE.

4. IN MAKING THESE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE IN SETTING UP HIGH LEVEL MEETINGS, WE HAVE IN MIND HEGDE'S OWN VERY WARM REACTION TO THE SUGGESTION, ORIGINALLY MADE BY HIS PREDECESSOR, THAT A US CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION VISIT INDIA AT THE INVITATION OF THE INDIAN PARLIAMENT. WE EXPECT TO HAVE A POSITIVE MESSAGE FOR YOU ON THIS NEXT WEEK. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE THINK IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR HEGDE ALSO TO MEET CONGRESSMAN WOLFF AND DISCUSS THE PROJECTED VISIT WITH HIM IN PERSON
GOHEEN

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